

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a medicament for the prevention or treatment of viral infections, the method comprising adding an inhibitor of the TRAIL ligand/TRAIL receptor system to a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent and/or adjuvant~~Use of inhibitors of the TRAIL ligand/TRAIL receptor system for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of viral infections.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The use method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor of the TRAIL ligand/TRAIL receptor system prevents or treats ~~for the prevention or treatment of~~ influenza or Borna disease virus infections.

3. (Currently Amended) The use method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor of the TRAIL ligand/TRAIL receptor system prevents or treats ~~for the prevention or treatment of~~ influenza virus infections.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of any one of claims 1-3~~ method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor of the TRAIL ligand/TRAIL receptor system prevents or treats ~~for the prevention or treatment of~~ viral infections in humans.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of any one of claims 1-3~~ method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor of the TRAIL ligand/TRAIL receptor system prevents or treats ~~for the prevention or treatment of~~ viral infections in domestic or wild animals.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~use of any one of claims 1-5~~ method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is a TRAIL ligand inhibitor.

7. (Currently Amended) The use method of claim 6 wherein the TRAIL ligand inhibitor is selected from

- (a) an inhibitory anti-TRAIL-ligand-antibody or a fragment thereof, and
- (b) a soluble TRAIL-receptor molecule or a TRAIL ligand-binding portion thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) The use method of claim 7 wherein the TRAIL-receptor molecule is selected from TRAIL receptor-1, TRAIL receptor-2, TRAIL receptor-3, TRAIL receptor-4 and OPG (osteoprotegerin).

9. (Currently Amended) The use method of ~~claims 8 or 9~~ claim 8 wherein the TRAIL ligand inhibitor is an extracellular domain of a TRAIL receptor molecule optionally fused to a heterologous polypeptide domain.

10. (Currently Amended) The use method of claim 9 wherein the TRAIL ligand inhibitor is an extracellular domain of a TRAIL receptor molecule fused to a Fc immunoglobulin molecule.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~use of any one of claims 1-5~~ method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is a TRAIL receptor inhibitor.

12. (Currently Amended) The use method of claim 11 wherein the TRAIL receptor inhibitor is selected from

- (a) an inhibitory anti-TRAIL receptor-antibody or a fragment thereof; and
- (b) an inhibitory TRAIL ligand fragment.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of any one of claims 1-5~~ method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is a nucleic acid effector molecule.

14. (Currently Amended) The use method of claim 13 wherein the nucleic acid effector molecule is selected from anti-sense molecules, RNAi molecules and ribozymes.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of any one of claims 1-5~~ method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is an inhibitor of intracellular TRAIL receptor signal transduction.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of any one of claims 1-5~~ method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is an inhibitor of the interaction of the Death domain of TRAIL receptor-1 or TRAIL receptor-2 with the Death domain of FADD or an inhibitor of the interaction of the Death Effector domain of FADD with caspase-8 and/or caspase-10.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of any one of claims 1-16 wherein the medicament comprises at least one inhibitor as the~~ The method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is an active ingredient ~~together with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and/or adjuvants.~~

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of any one of claims 1-17 wherein the medicament comprises~~ The method of claim 17, further comprising adding a further active ingredient.

19. (Original) A method of identifying and/or characterizing inhibitors of viral infections comprising determining if a compound is capable of inhibiting the TRAIL/TRAIL receptor system.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the inhibition comprises an inhibition of TRAIL/TRAIL receptor mediated apoptosis.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the inhibition comprises an inhibition of TRAIL/TRAIL receptor mediated cell activation.